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110-1-35

DDC

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY COMBAT DEVELOPMENTS COMMAND
Liaison Detachment, HQ USARV
APO San Francisco 96375

MAY 13 1969

12 April 1968

CDCCS-LV

SUBJECT: Trip Report ~~XXXX~~ Medical Communications and
Electronics Equipment.

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(11) 12 Apr 68

(12) 2 p.m.

1. In response to a request from the Medical Service Agency, LTC Harper visited the 44th Medical Brigade and 68th Medical Group to discuss communication and electronics equipment currently used by Medical units in Vietnam. Additionally, comments were solicited regarding recommended future changes to medical doctrine and TOE with regard to communications and electronics needs.

2. The following persons were contacted:

LTC Waterfield	-	S3, 44th Medical Brigade
CPT Gordon	-	Commo Officer, 44th Med Bde
CPT Wade	-	Commo Officer, 68th Med Gp

3. Before discussing the communication facilities of the medical units in Vietnam, it is necessary to mention the prime users of the radio equipment. The 44th Medical Brigade, and subordinate groups have organized medical regulating sections, composed of senior NCO's and specialists (MOS 91C40 & 20), who act as liaison between the supported unit and the medical treatment facilities. The medical field regulator is responsible to establish and maintain contact with aero-medical evacuation units (dustoff), the medical group to which he is assigned and the available fixed medical facilities. His mission is to regulate, coordinate and direct the flow of patient evacuation from division-level medical stations to one of the facilities of the 44th Medical Brigade. He accomplishes his mission by the use of radio communications; both FM and SSB.

4. The following is a discussion of the type radios being used:

a. FM. AN/VRC 46/47 radios are being used by the field medical regulator to contact dustoff and maintain communications with the supported unit. The evacuation hospitals utilize FM to facilitate coordination between the hospital and incoming medical evacuation helicopters. The employment of these radios has reduced the "waiting time" for professional personnel in the emergency room. Direct communications between the arriving helicopter and the

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SUBJECT: Trip Report (25-68)

hospital, five to ten minutes before touchdown, also ensures that the necessary personnel and equipment are available to care for casualties. Since very few of the FM radios are authorized by TOE, the radios in the medical groups have been re-distributed to equip the evacuation and surgical hospitals and medical field regulators.

b. SSB. For long distance communications, the brigade relies on single side band communications (SSB). The brigade is currently utilizing the RT-718/FRC-93 (Collins KWM-2A) with excellent results. These radios are considered essential by the brigade in order to maintain communications between the brigade, groups and hospitals. Through the use of the radios the brigade coordinates patient evacuation, distributes the workload between hospitals and directs the patient to the professional team best prepared to care for his injury. In addition to regulating patient evacuation the radios are used to coordinate the transfer of critical medical supplies between hospitals and handle communications between the various staff sections. The stations operate twenty four hours a day. No SSB radios are authorized by TOE, however, the brigade has arranged for the loan of these sets from other units in Vietnam. Radio operators consist of those authorized by TOE to operate the teletype equipment. See inclosure 1, for the type and numbers of SSB radios requested by the brigade on an emergency requisition dated August 1967. This radio requirement is also included in a MTOE presently at DA for approval.

5. Teletypes. TOE authorized teletypes are not being utilized by units of the 44th Medical Brigade.

- 3 Incl (Forwarded to Materiel Dir)
1. Ltr, AVBJ, 44th Med Bde 31Aug67
2. Daily Radio Status Report, 44th Med Bde
3. Ltr, D/C, 44th Med Bde, port to Army Med Svc Doctrine in Vietnam

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DONALD L. GREEN
LTC, GS (CE)
Senior Liaison Officer

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